



May 2023 Newsletter

HARBOR Unitarian Universalist CONGREGATION

Muskegon, MI 49441-1719
1296 Montgomery Ave. at McGraft

231-755-2932
www.harboruu.org

HUUC Mission Statement:

Harbor Unitarian Universalist Congregation is a safe haven inspiring people to seek their own spiritual truths through worship and learning in community as we build a better world together.

HUUC Vision Statement:

The people of Harbor Unitarian Universalist Congregation envision a community where connections are strengthened and deepened, where families are supported, and where diversity is celebrated.

Sue McIntire, *Music Director*

HUUC Board of Trustees

Poppy Sias Hernandez, *President*

Robin Dennany, *Vice President*

Kurt Troutman, *Treasurer*

Jones Barton, *Secretary*

Members at Large:

Carolyn Holmes • Rebecca St. Clair • Jim Stier

Sunday Worship Services

*Virtual!
or In Person!*

**Begin at
10:30am**

April 30th

"Kindness Lingers On"

Christine Cleary

Are we losing our ability to be kind? How important is it to our well being as individuals, as a community, and to the world at large. The world is becoming more frustrated and angry. Are we powerless in the face of it, so why be kind?

May 7th

"Blessing of the Animals"

Rev. Matthew Cockrum

Bring your non-human animal friends (and your human ones, too!) to this special Blessing of the Animals service. Join Consulting Minister, the Rev. Matthew Cockrum, Worship Assistant Carolyn Holmes and the rest of your Harbor UU family in this celebration of reverence for life and an exploration of what it means to bless.

May 14th

"Mother's Day-a Unitarian Universalist original idea"

Kurt Troutman

Together we will learn the history of Mother's Day and I will share the lessons that my mother taught me

May 21st

"Freethinking Mystics with Hands"

Rev. Matthew Cockrum

Borrowing a phrase from the Rev. Tom Owen-Towle, join Consulting Minister, the Rev. Matthew Cockrum, in a mash-up exploring the legacies of the Humanist Manifesto and the ordination of Olympia Brown. A congregational potluck lunch and workshop will immediately follow the service. This is our last Sunday workshop! (One more in June will be 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday - June 10)

May 28th

"How to Love a Church"

Amy G. S. A. Brooks

Reflect on the question of "why we do what we do" in our congregations and communities. Amy G. S. A. Brooks is a fat cisgender, queer, Australian-born immigrant to the United States who loves a good cup of hot tea and hates mornings. Amy's pronouns are she/her. Amy is the author of Another Scroll: Defiant Readings for Lectionary Year C; and she has served congregations since 2009. Amy is deeply familiar with grief and trauma. She finds truth and meaning in the liminal spaces where humanity encounters the Divine. She claims kinship with her wife, Laurie; as well as their adult children, assorted members of their chosen family, and numerous pets.

Zoom With Us at <https://zoom.us/j/91447658076>



from the Consulting Minister, Rev. Matthew Cockrum

As the end of my contract with you draws near a close I must tell you what a pleasure, honor and joy it has been to serve as your Consulting Minister for the past church year. From beginning to end - starting with your Board President, Poppy Hernandez, asking me for a conversation about the issues facing HUUC - to now with each workshop, meeting and service, I have been tickled to get to know you better and, in doing so, I hope I helped you to get to know yourselves better, as well. While I will not be stepping completely out of the life of the congregation (I expect to be preaching on a semi-regular basis in the 2023-2024 church year) my relationship with you will shift and change a bit. I will no longer be consulting with the Board and Worship Planning Team on a monthly basis. So we will see a bit less of each other and I will be less intimately involved in the life of the church. That said, we still have May and June to do some good work together. I just wanted to name my awareness of this.

Part of why I name this now is that "hellos" and "goodbyes" can be challenging in our lives. In my ministries both in congregations and in health care settings I have come to value the wisdom of naming expected transitions early, being clear about them, and using them as opportunities to do some important spiritual and emotional work. Indeed, one of my favorite readings in our hymnal is an excerpt from a larger piece by the poet, Mary Oliver. It goes:

"To live in this world you must be able to do three things:

To love what is mortal;

To hold it against your bones knowing your own life depends upon it;

And when the time comes to let it go, to let it go."

Along with this, I have learned that the degree to which I can say a good and whole "goodbye" impacts my capacity to say a full and wholesome "hello" to what comes next. In the coming weeks I hope to be able to do that with you, expressing gratitude and admiration, asking for and offering forgiveness where needed. I encourage folks to do this at deathbeds or even just when taking stock of their lives due to major changes. I invite you into that process as well - both with me and in your larger and daily lives.

As I said, we still have May and June to work together, to worship together and to imagine the future of this great good place now known as Harbor Unitarian Universalist Congregation. Let us continue to dream and to do, to go in peace and to practice Love.ready to explore.

Here's to The Work, friends.

Peace, Faith & Passion,
Rev. Matthew Cockrum (he/him/his)
Consulting Minister
mscockrum@gmail.com
206.849.9171 (cell - text or call as needed)

Next HUUC Board Meeting: Monday, May 15th • 6:30 pm

All are welcome!

in person or via zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/96744707168>



April 2023 Workshop Review

On Sunday, April 23, fifteen dedicated Harbor UU members and friends joined in a fruitful post-worship workshop to discuss Stewardship & Social Action. We began with introductions and folks recollecting their earliest exposures to and experiences with social action. Some of us shared a newness to social action that began with our entrance into Unitarian Universalist communities in adulthood while others recalled earlier starts either by temperament (asking pesky, unwelcomed questions about fairness in more restrictive spaces) or by upbringing (seeing just living modeled by caring adults or being brought up in liberal and justice-focused communities. What a rich array of experiences and gifts this community holds!

Our conversation continued with Kurt Troutman from the HUUC Board reminding folks that financial preparations for the coming fiscal year are underway. With the annual meeting coming in early June, the congregation needs to know what kinds of financial contributions can be expected to create a budget. Kurt distributed pledge forms and giving guides and some folks made their pledges on the spot! Consulting Minister, the Reverend Matthew Cockrum reminded folks of the quartile analysis performed in November and the optimal distribution of pledges as well as the concept

of a “liberal tithe”: aiming for 5% of income gifted to the congregation with another 5% given to other important organizations. Please do make your pledges in the coming weeks to ease preparations for budgeting and the annual meeting.

Rev. Matthew then invited participants into an exploration of three types/models of social activism and social justice work, drawn from the Unitarian Universalist curriculum, Resistance and Transformation (<https://www.uua.org/re/tapestry/adults/resistance>). The three models and examples of each are:

- The prophetic voices speak out against the conventions of the era, and are often marginalized or considered ahead of their time, with a strong vision of a better future. - example: Henry David Thoreau
- The parallel voices advocate for an alternative to the established structure, a new system to replace that which is deemed broken. - example: Margaret Fuller
- The institutional voices seek to work within established power structures to change them from within. - example: A. Powell Davies

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Sunday May 21 • Potluck & Workshop • 12-3pm

Join HUUC members and friends immediately following Sunday service for a potluck lunch and workshop facilitated by Consulting Minister, the Reverend Matthew Cockrum. Continue to imagine and build together the future of Harbor Unitarian Universalist Congregation!

April 2023 Workshop Review

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Three small groups reflected on the examples, recalled how HUUC has taken each approach in the past and considered the pros and cons of each. Notes follow:

<i>Prophetic</i>	<i>Parallel</i>	<i>Institutional</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spoke out against governments individualistic HUUC examples: becoming a welcoming congregation, having female clergy, supporting gay marriage rights, marching and protesting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Created alternatives while maintaining existing connections HUUC examples: toy weapon take-back, Peace Camp, Same Sex Marriage Day, supporting Roe and Choice Fund 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Came into Unitarianism and advocated for change from within Used position as lever for change in institutions HUUC/UU examples: Black Lives of Unitarian Universalists
<p>Pros: inspire others, groundbreaking</p> <p>Cons: may not provide alternatives, does not work within existing structures</p>	<p>Pros: creates protection, "what's important to me is enough."</p> <p>Cons: if navigated poorly may isolate and stagnate in same circles, never know if you'll be successful</p>	<p>Pros: power in going with the flow - when where strategic diversion can make change, implies value and respect of others in institution</p> <p>Cons: hands tied if you say, perceived hypocrisy as an ally</p>

In conclusion, the large group looked at how each of these three approaches might be utilized in addressing the two major social action projects currently at the forefront in the life of Harbor Unitarian Universalist Congregation:

1. Education & Tutoring at the Bunker School
2. Pride & Queer (those minoritized due to sexual and gender expression and identity) Issues

<i>Education/Bunker</i>	<i>Pride/Queer</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reading and tutoring - institutional and prophetic Community dialogue regarding educational issues - prophetic Heights programs - prophetic Research to examine discrepancies and lobby legislators - prophetic Stay connected with people/positions with power and influence to influence change - parallel and institutional What other approaches to reading/literacy? What else? What next? - institutional Libraries - Institutional & parallel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pride events including parade, table, "swag," banned books, advertising church - prophetic Sermons and worship - parallel, institutional and prophetic Pride flag - parallel, institutional and prophetic Support LGBTQIA+ businesses and queer friendly businesses - raise awareness of Business Foundation's Love Is Love/Sticker campaign - institutional, parallel and prophetic

Those present seemed to list examples of prophetic approaches most frequently which could lead to conversation about how to expand bandwidth and creativity to include other approaches.

Drawing upon the words of one of Rev. Matthew's professors, the Reverend David Bumbaugh, attendees were left with the following questions for theological reflection and discernment:

1. What do you believe?
2. Whom do you serve?
3. To what or whom are you responsible/accountable?

Harbor Unitarian Universalist Congregation

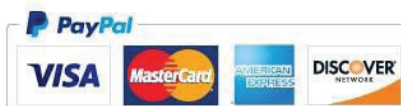


Dear Members and Friends,

Welcome to the 2023-2024 HUUC Annual Pledge Drive. Each passing year we all strive to live *braver and wiser*! We are people of all ages, people of many backgrounds, and people of many beliefs. We are brave, curious and compassionate thinkers and doers.

Your pledge ensures that HUUC maintains the resources necessary to grow and thrive in fellowship and service to each other and our greater community. Please submit your annual pledge to Kurt Troutman by May 14, 2023 by means of email at kurttroutman@hotmail.com or a sealed envelope marked **2023-2024 Pledge**, mailed to HUUC.

Your pledge can be donated by check, cash or online options which can be accessed through <https://harboruu.org/pledgedonate/>



Thank you for your consideration and contributions. ***Live Passionately!***

Sincerely,

Kurt Troutman

Treasurer, Harbor UU Congregation



Many Beliefs, One Faith



2023-2024 Annual Pledge Form

Name(s): _____

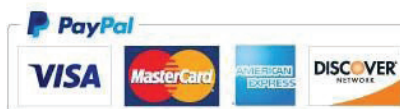
Address: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Annual Pledge Amount:

Method of Payment:



*Seek Freely * Connected Authentically * Serve Passionately*

All of who you are is sacred. All of who you are is welcome.



Unitarian Universalism



The Suggested Fair-Share Contribution Guide

Using the Guide is a simple, 3-step process; giving is a function of commitment and resources.

1. Most of us budget our financial commitments on a monthly basis and the guide is organized accordingly, but you may calculate on any time frame that works for you. For convenience, the guide shows monthly and corresponding annual income levels. Determine your monthly income or resource level. \$ _____
2. ADD to your income level any unusual or periodic income, such as inheritances, business income, anticipated investment income, etc. SUBTRACT any unusual expenses, such as large medical expenses, care of a parent, or a large financial expense, etc. Result: \$ _____ **This is your Adjusted Monthly Income.**

Each of us will have our own unique circumstances to consider in making this calculation. The flexibility to include meaningful and unusual exceptions in your financial life (income and expenses) is what makes the Guide fair and useful. This is a tool for you to use in the spirit of the Congregationalist tradition; we are individually and collectively responsible for resourcing our movement and our congregations. This is an honor system; only you know your circumstances.

3. From the Adjusted Monthly Income column, move to the right to find a suggested giving level that you are ready to support, between 2% and 10%, depending on adjusted income and level of commitment. Interpolate between guide levels if needed.

In making your decision, consider the four commitment levels below and how they relate to your membership. Consider your UU values in thinking about your income and your financial commitment to the congregation, as expressed in the four levels below. Note that within each commitment level, **the guide is progressive**, with giving levels rising with capacity.

- **Supporter:** The congregation is a significant part of my spiritual and intellectual life that I want to support. My fair share financial commitment starts at 2% of my income and rises to 6% as my income and capacity rise.
- **Sustainer:** The congregation is my central community; I am committed to sustaining the programs and ministries of my congregation. My fair share financial commitment starts at 3% of my income and rises to 7% as my income and capacity rise.
- **Visionary:** My commitment is a clear demonstration of the unique importance of this congregation and of my spiritual principles. My fair share financial commitment starts at 5% of my income and rises to 9% as my income and capacity rise.
- **Transformer:** I am deeply committed to the congregation; my contribution provides fuel for transformation and is part of my spiritual practices in living out my UU Principles. My fair share financial commitment represents 10% of my income.

Stewardship For Us | www.stewardshipforus.com

All of who you are is sacred. All of who you are is welcome.





Harbor Unitarian Universalist Congregation

		Lower option	Higher option	
	This Year	Next Year	Next Year	
	FY 22-23	FY 23-24	FY 23-24	
	Estimate	Proposed Budget	Proposed Budget	Notes
400 • Pledges	\$ 45,000	\$ 45,000	\$ 45,000	
405 • Collection	3,500	3,000	3,000	
410 • City of the Dead	2,675	1,200	1,200	\$500 of profits to be earmarked for cemetery project
411 • Service Auction	2,815	1,800	1,800	
430 • Building Rental	240	-	-	
450 • Miscellaneous Income	765	-	-	
Total Income	54,995	51,000	51,000	
500 • Board Expenses	500	600	600	Includes \$100 for leadership development
510 • UUA Dues	3,556	3,556	3,556	
512 • Muskegon Coop. Churches	50	50	50	
520 • Insurance	3,508	3,900	3,900	
531 • Office Supplies	300	300	300	Includes archival supplies for photos/albums
600 • Minister Salary	19,781	-	21,580	Matthew had 11-month contract/New budget for 12 months
601 • Minister Mileage	2,063	-	2,250	Matthew had 11-month contract/New budget for 12 months
603 • Caring Ministry Discr. Fund	500	500	500	
620 • Janitorial Expense	2,750	3,900	3,900	\$75/week
630 • Worship Speakers	2,400	7,800	600	\$300 x 26 weeks / \$300 x 2 weeks
631 • Worship/Tech Expenses	120	900	900	Includes Zoom license and new videocamera
650 • Music Director Salary	11,227	11,960	11,960	\$23/hr. [Min \$20.33, Mid \$22.60, Max \$24.86] per UUA comp guidelines for "Director" 6.5% raise
653 • Choir/Piano Music	205	240	240	
654 • Music Director Prof. Exp	750	750	750	
660 • Social Action	525	300	300	2023 Supper House contribution is \$300
665 • Office Asst Salary	-	2,080	2,080	\$20/hr. x 2 hrs/week [Min \$15.53, Mid \$17.26, Max \$18.99] per UUA comp guidelines for "Support"
670 • RE Programming	-	600	600	\$20/hr. x 2 hrs/week [Min \$15.53, Mid \$17.26, Max \$18.99] per UUA comp guidelines for "Support"
673 • RE Child Care	500	2,080	2,080	
700 • Space & Grace	4,800	5,000	5,000	
701 • Gas	3,952	4,020	4,020	\$335/mo (new budgeted amount from DTE)
702 • Electricity	1,183	1,200	1,200	
703 • Telephone	802	924	924	\$76/month
704 • Water & Sewer	373	390	390	
706 • Internet Connection	480	480	480	\$40/month
708 • Special City Tax Assessment	19	20	20	
720 • Advertising/Web/Domain	217	240	240	
732 • Bank/Payroll Service Charges	1,752	1,800	1,800	Includes PayPal/Venmo fees
740 • Payroll Taxes	860	920	920	Will increase/decrease with wages
751 • Membership Committee	232	180	180	
752 • Caring Committee	100	300	300	
Total Expense	63,505	54,990	71,620	
Net Income (Loss)	\$ (8,510)	\$ (3,990)	\$ (20,620)	

News from **CARING** Committee...

The caring team has become a strong and vital part of our UU experience. We acknowledge the vital and valuable part we play in this sacred space and to that end, we hope that you will turn to us for any issue that is a concern in your life. We are here to help you carry those difficulties that make knots in our lives. We offer a hand, a shoulder or an ear for those times. Please reach out - we are here.

We have five members:

Sue McIntire, Christine Cleary, Chad Axe, Nancy Johnson, and Ange Barnes.

(If you would like to be involved in any way, please let one of us know.)

Contact: Sue McIntire (231) 563-3988



Cozy Craft Circle

meets April 10th and 24th from 6:30-8:30pm in the social hall. Bring a work-in-progress, something new, or just a notebook to brainstorm and collect inspiration. You are encouraged to bring a beverage of choice and snacks to share. This is a welcoming space to stretch your creativity and socialize. We'll use the side door, but if you need the front door available for accessibility, message Robin at 2482291601. Join our FB group, via the HUUC News and Events page - Cozy Craft Corner. Happy Crafting!

THE HUUC VALUES STATEMENT

is still in the works!


We have received a 50% participation rate from HUUC members as this newsletter goes to press. More participation is desired so we will begin making individual contact with those persons who have not replied. If you would like to help, you can reach out by directly contacting a few members for their contributions, contact Carolyn Holmes (holmesland58@gmail.com) for a short list of names and contact info.

All members are being asked to suggest 1-3 core values that reflect Harbor UU Congregation. Who are we? What core values define us and are truly important to us as a congregation?

Once the suggestions have been gathered, a committee will create a statement for review and approval by the congregation. We hope to have a statement ready for a vote of acceptance at the annual meeting on June 4.

Thanks to all who have contributed to the completion of this project!

YOGA



Thursdays 5:30-6:30
1296 Montgomery • 49441
Bring a Mat

**HUUC Earth-Based
Spiritualists Host**

May Day

Ceremony & Celebration

Sunday, April 30th @7pm
HUUC Lower Level

Direct interest and inquiries to Jessica:
gingermajick@hotmail.com
or text/call 231.206.4947

See you there!

House Concert at HUUC!

Saturday, May 20th, 7pm
The Barley Saints

wsg Justin Brady, Scott Sheldon, & Third Class Flynn



\$5 Donation Requested
Proceeds to benefit Mission For Area People
www.barleysaints.com

The newly organized

SOCIAL ACTION

Committee

is focusing on a major ongoing project instead of a lot of smaller ones. One that hopefully HUUC will eventually be known for and will attract new members. There seems to be a lot of excitement around tutoring 1-3rd graders at Bunker Elementary or our church. We are in the middle of narrowing it down to something a small church can manage and have minimal or no cost. Half a dozen members have already expressed interest in volunteering. And the school is excited about how we can help. Once it is more nailed down, we will present it to the board.

We will continue to encourage members to

- participate in Supper House,
- participate in Adopt a Family for Christmas
- participate in Pride Muskegon

Stay tuned - HUUC is on the move.

Contact Marcia Hovey-Wright if you have any questions or want to volunteer
231 7408492

Please submit information for the **JUNE Newsletter** by Monday, May 29th
to Jessica a gingermajick@hotmail.com / text or call 231.206.4947

2023 MAY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
10:30a Worship 7:00p May Day Ceremony	1	2	3 6:00p Choir	4 5:30p Yoga	5 4:30p 4H Mtg	6
7 10:30a Worship	8 6:30p Craft Corner	9	10 6:00p Choir	11 5:30p Yoga	12	13
14 10:30a Worship	15 6:30p Board Mtg	16 7:30p Worship Committee	17 6:00p Choir	18 5:30p Yoga	19 4:30p 4H Mtg	20 7:00p Barley Saints Concert
21 10:30a Worship 12:00p Workshop	22 6:30p Craft Corner	23	24 6:00p Choir	25 5:30p Yoga	26	27
28 10:30a Worship	29 7:00p Newsletter Deadline	30	31 6:00p Choir			